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Inside the Castro Story*Guerrilla Battle Unit
Ready to Invade Cuba*By ROBERT S. ALLEN
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WASHINGTON — The Junta Revolucionaria Cubana (JURE) is set to open an active guerrilla underground in the Communist-ruled island in May—on the assurance that the U. S. Navy and Coast Guard will not interfere with the “infiltration” of men and supplies.

THAT PROMISE was given Manuel Ray, leader of JURE last week. He and members of his “Leadership Committee” conferred with top Johnson administration officials, including the Central Intelligence Agency.

Still pending are two other major JURE requests:

- Several million dollars in funds, light arms and communication equipment.

- Intelligence information, particularly from U-2 reconnaissance flights.

Ray told administration authorities that JURE is confident a guerrilla beachhead can be firmly established and publicly announced around May 20, Cuban Independence Day.

He claims to have a trained guerrilla force of between 500 and 900, and plans call for “infiltrating” the mountainous region where Castro operated before coming into power in 1959. These JURE troops are being trained and equipped in Venezuela, Mexico and Puerto Rico.

Ray, now a \$10,000-a-year employee of the Puerto Rican government, was once minister of public works in the Castro regime and is among the most controversial of the Cuban exile leaders. At the time of the Bay of Pigs invasion, crucial details of the ill-fated operation were withheld from him.

ONE NAVAL Intelligence report credits Ray with aiming at supplanting Castro with a coalition government that would include Communists—“a Castro-type regime without Castro.”

The Junta Revolucionaria Cubana has been getting some U. S. financial aid. This has been provided indirectly by the Central Intelligence Agency in payments to a “cut-out” organization; that is, a group handling the legal and other affairs of JURE.

President Johnson is taking a wary wait-and-see attitude toward the JURE undertaking.

HE IS DOING this on the advice of Assistant Secretary of State Thomas Mann, his principal expert on Latin America. Mann reportedly has reservations regarding both Ray and the contemplated guerrilla underground plan.

Other top administration officials are split down the middle on this issue.

Attorney General Robert Kennedy, a member of the little-known Counter-Insurgency Committee, and Deputy Defense Secretary Cyrus Vance, favor supporting the JURE project. Secretary Rusk and the State Department's Policy Planning Council are opposed.

They contend that even covert backing of a move to overthrow Castro would lead to Russian intervention.

Strong misgivings about the administration's policy on Cuba are one of the reasons Sen. Barry Goldwater shied away from the President's offer to brief Republican presidential candidates on foreign affairs.

THE ARIZONAN is telling colleagues he “expects the administration to make some kind of move on Cuba before election, and I don't propose to be bound by it.”

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